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## Why I Teach Senior English by Ann Hammond (Poem)/Foll House (Poem)

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# Why I Teach Senior English, By Ann Hammond

*If you're going to be a pig  
don't give yourself much  
room to do it in. The big*

*questions -- do I have lunch money,  
did I brush my teeth, why  
don't people park inside the damn lines --*

*bounce off shiny hoods of other  
teachers' cars. Today*

*I will be understanding. The children don't listen  
because of their gonads. Madam Bovary  
puts them to sleep. How can I say  
straight-faced, "Pollyanna is Candide at the turn of our century?"*

*We are not far apart.  
I grade your papers and walk down the aisle  
to hand them back. If Khaddafy  
sends his goons in here  
I will take as many bullets for you as I can.*

*"No, I won't like doing it. Do you remember  
how you hated me and thought it was stupid  
to have to diagram those sentences from Chapter 4?"*

*--Lee Harlan Bahan*

## Doll House

*My daughter and I  
study the structure between us,  
ever growing, unfinished.  
Foundations, walls are placed, painted, papered,  
doors and windows opened and closed  
but she is impatient  
for the next story's study,  
bedroom, children's toys.  
She desires completion,  
I perfection,  
so occasionally, we clash.  
But today we work together  
forming chains for chandeliers,  
golden links I pray will never dim.*

*--Harvey Hecht*